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POSSIBILITY OF JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM SOVIET ORBIT

J. Herzig-Arzi

It is a fact that Soviet policy changes quickly and radically, and it is possible that an opportune appeal of the West to the East for free emigration of Jews from the Soviet orbit may be successful.

Recent developments have shown that the USSR seems to prefer a peaceful settlement of world problems. Presumably, many meetings will take place between Eastern and Western leaders in the future to iron out the conflicting world problems, which also include the question of Jewish emigration from the Soviet orbit.

As an ethnic group, the Jews of the Soviet orbit have been politically and socially placed on an equal footing with the rest of the population in Communist countries. The question now arises what the Soviet intentions are with regard to this ethnic group. There are the following two possibilities: (1) The physical extermination of the Jewish "sect" by mass expulsion or by direct or indirect destruction; or (2) the removal of the Jewish elements by permitting them to emigrate. Which of the two possibilities the Soviets will choose depends entirely on future developments of the world situation.

The internal development of the USSR under the Communist regime has led to complete isolation from the rest of the world of the Jewish element in the USSR and the Satellites. Nevertheless, it is not surprising that some Jews still maintain leading political positions in the Satellite countries. Cominform policy, contrary to Nazi policy, is not concerned with eliminating a few Jews in responsible positions who long ago had denied their Jewish origin and nationality. If necessary, the Communists can, at any time, either eliminate these Jews, quickly or exploit their Jewish origin.

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